of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Govt, wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

(c) Government has launched a Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in August 2004.

Special Courts for cases of atrocities

3671. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Courts in various States for prosecution under the Atrocities Act;

(b) how many cases were decided during 2005-06,2006-07 and 2007-08;

(c) the details of cases in which accused were punished or acquitted during those years; and

(d) the number of cases where second appeals were filled during those years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 stipulates that for purpose of providing for speedy trial, the State Government with concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, shall specify for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court, to try the offences under the Act. Accordingly the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttrakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts.

(b) and (c) The details of cases disposed of by the Courts and the cases thereof ending in conviction and acquittal during the calendar year 2004,2005 and 2006 are as under:—

Year	Total Number of cases disposed	Number of cases ending in conviction	Number of cases ending in acquittal
2004 2005	20750 24511 24171	3259 7119 6782	17491
2006	lata is not separately	ntained by this Ministry.	17401
(d) Such dj	mail		17389